

# 05.

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# The Experience

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The eastern lakefront of the future features a diversity of experiences that celebrate, uplift, and embrace Lake Erie as a vital natural and cultural asset for the city. These experiences, or rooms of the plan, provide moments of peace and opportunities for gathering for all community members and visitors to the lakefront.

# The Isle

The creation of the Isle will provide an immersive natural experience for hiking, picnicking, fishing, and connecting with nature. Current visitors and users of the lakefront cherish opportunities to view and connect with water and nature. However, the current lakefront provides few spaces to feel fully immersed in nature and connected to Lake Erie. Sitting just offshore, the Isle will offer a new way to experience the lake, one that only boaters and paddlers can experience today. Visitors will walk or bike across the bridge or paddle out through the Cove to wander through the vegetated trails, boardwalk paths, tree-lined lawns, picnic groves, and nature play areas, immersing themselves in the unique natural environment of Lake Erie. Boardwalk paths and natural surface trails provide birders and nature enthusiasts with opportunities to disconnect from the city and walk through sensitive environmental areas that are ever-changing as lake levels fluctuate. In the southern portion of the Isle, the boardwalk path will swoop out over the water's edge providing expansive views of the Lakeshore. Created from dredge material, this barrier island provides protection for the shoreline, allowing the creation of a protected cove and softening and naturalization of the shoreline edge.

## The Lawn

Located at the point of the Isle, the Lawn will provide the community with a flexible passive open space for informal and formal events, pick-up games, and picnics.

## Picnic Grove

Nestled within a shaded grove of trees, the Picnic Grove will provide an immersive natural picnic experience for visitors along the banks of Lake Erie.

## Nature Play

A new nature-based play space will be located adjacent to the Lawn and picnic areas on the Isle, inviting all ages and abilities to play.

## Overlook

The Overlook will provide visitors with sweeping views of the Lake and the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve and new spaces to fish in deeper water.







Key program spaces – the Lawn, Picnic Grove, Overlook, and Nature Play – will be located on the Isle.



**CHEERS!**



**+ HIGHLIGHT**

**New York City, NY**

## Central Park Great Lawn


*Central Park's Great Lawn is arguably the most famous lawn in the world. It occupies the center of Central Park, offering a pastoral space for gathering and play. It has become the front yard for residents and host to some of the most memorable outdoor concerts in the country. It is more than a flexible lawn space with room to play soccer, frisbee, and softball – it is a gathering point for residents and visitors near and far, a place to celebrate, relax, picnic, and enjoy a respite from urban life in the spring, summer, fall, and winter.*

*(right: The Great Lawn by Flickr user ep\_jhu)*








 The Lawn, located adjacent to the Picnic Grove, will provide a multiuse space where community members can gather, enjoy picnics, hang out with friends and family, or engage in a friendly pick-up game of soccer or catch.

## **THE LAWN**

Located at the point of the Isle, the Lawn will provide the community with a flexible passive open space for informal and formal events, pick-up games, and picnics.

A new seven-acre lawn will provide a new passive space where visitors will be encouraged to gather and create their own recreation adventures. For comparison, the size of the proposed lawn sits midway between the main multi-use lawn areas at Edgewater Park (20 acres) and the Euclid Beach Park picnic area (2.4 acres). Its location on the point of the Isle will provide panoramic views of the lake and the city skyline. While the Lawn will provide space for informal and formal events like a summer concert series or festivals, it will serve as a community space year-round where all will be welcome to enjoy a picnic, fly a kite, or play a pick-up game of football or soccer. The Lawn will be ringed by the lakefront multi-use trail, which will connect visitors to nearby nature and boardwalk trails. A viewing pavilion located on eastern edge of the lawn will serve as a comfort station with restrooms, drinking fountains, a covered patio space and other amenities.

## **PICNIC GROVE**

Nestled within a shaded grove of trees, the Picnic Grove will provide an immersive natural picnic experience for visitors along the banks of Lake Erie.

The Picnic Grove will provide a new picnic experience on the shore of the Isle unlike any existing picnic site along the lakeshore. Picnic tables and pavilions will be dispersed within a grove of trees that line the flexible lawn at the point of the Isle. A nearby viewing pavilion will serve the area as a comfort station with restrooms, a covered patio space, and other visitor amenities for the Lawn, play spaces, and picnic areas.

## **NATURE PLAY**

A new nature-based play space will be located adjacent to the Lawn and picnic areas on the Isle inviting all ages and abilities to play.

Living in urban areas and having access to a wide variety of indoor activities, including technology, has led many communities and kids, in particular, to feel alienated from nature. This condition, which can lead to negative behavioral and health outcomes, is commonly known as Nature Deficit Disorder (Richard Louv). Spending time outside can improve mental and physical health. For children, playing or spending time in nature can help build confidence, inspire creativity and imagination, stimulate senses, promote healthy movement and living, and reduce stress.

The creation of a new nature play area along the eastern lakefront will provide a dedicated space and activity for children and families. Throughout the engagement process, the team heard that adults enjoy the lakefront, but wish there were more activities and programs for their children and grandchildren. The nature play area will be nestled within new grassland, oak savannah, and forested habitat, offering an immersive experience for kids and caregivers of

all ages. Play equipment, which may include climbing logs, tree stumps, boulders, play sand, small hills or mounds, water tables or pumps, and gardens will allow for sensory and physical exploration of nature. The all-ages and abilities playground with nature-based play features will connect to the Lawn and multi-use, nature, and boardwalk trails. It will provide a much needed and desired amenity for children along the eastern lakefront and help reconnect children to nature, inspiring a new generation of Lake Erie stewards.

### **Chicago, Illinois**

## **Welles Park Nature Play**

*Welles Park, opened in 2018, provides children of all ages with a unique nature play experience. It includes small play hills, log balancing areas, climbing stones, stumps, sensory play elements, and a “mud kitchen,” where kids have the opportunity to touch and feel nature. Play elements encourage kids to use multiple senses as they play, stopping to listen, touch, watch, and smell. Surrounded by native trees and vegetation, it feels as if it is tucked in an enchanted forest, inviting children to play and explore. The 1.23-acre site is part of a larger nature-based play initiative in Chicago aimed at reconnecting kids to nature and inspiring healthy living. The play space was designed by Site Design Group, Ltd. and received funding from the Chicago Park District, local officials, the National Recreation Park Association (NRPA), and other private foundation donors.*

*(Right: Site Design Group, Ltd.)*







## Long Island City, NY

# Hunter's Point South Park

*Commissioned by the NYC Economic Development Corporation, the project is part of the plan to revitalize the 37.5-acre former industrial site along the East River. The continuous 10-acre waterfront park – Hunter's Point South – includes wetland mitigation, new habitat, gathering spaces, a playground, courts, multipurpose fields, and an urban beach. However, one of the most signature elements of the park is a series of overlooks that provide sweeping views of the East River and Manhattan skyline. These overlooks allow visitors to access the water's edge and enjoy moments of quiet retreat in the shadow of the busy city.*

*(left: NYCEDC)*

“We have a great lake, a precious natural resource, we should care for it and celebrate it.”

– **Community Member**

## **OVERLOOK**

The Overlook will provide visitors with sweeping views of the Lake and the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve and new spaces to fish in deeper water.

The Overlook responds to the community's desire for more places to fish, areas where they can be closer to the water, and more viewing and observation areas to take in the picturesque views of Lake Erie and Downtown Cleveland. The walkway of the Overlook will curve along the northern edge of the Isle, providing sweeping views of the lake and the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve and new areas to fish in deeper water. Visitors will traverse a shaded natural trail that reveals dramatic views of the water as they approach the Overlook. Once they arrive on the platform, panoramic views of Lake Erie open up, allowing for moments of serenity and reflection, celebration, and appreciation. The Overlook and other viewpoints throughout the eastern lakefront will provide the community with spectacular views and offer moments to contemplate and recognize the significance of the city's connection to the lake.

# The Lakeshore

The Lakeshore will extend the existing shoreline, creating welcoming and connected park spaces that interface with adjacent communities. Major gateways at 72nd Street, 55th Street Marina, Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, and a new pedestrian bridge adjacent to the former FirstEnergy Plant will connect the Lakeshore with the St. Clair-Superior, Glenville, and Goodrich-Kirtland neighborhoods. These gateways not only provide safe and accessible connections for pedestrians and bicyclists, but also serve as trailheads, strengthening the existing local and regional trail systems. The Lakeshore leverages existing activity nodes at 55th Street Marina and the North Gordon Park Fishing Area to create new gathering and recreation spaces to serve the community.

## The Cove

Nestled between the Isle and the Lakeshore, the Cove will provide a protected inlet for watersports and extensive habitat restoration and expansion.

## The Shore & Launch

The protected Cove will facilitate the creation of the Shore and the Launch, which provide opportunities for visitors to touch and engage directly with the water by wading or lounging by the shoreline or spending the day paddling out on a kayak, canoe, or other watercraft.

## The Habitat Loop

A newly formed Habitat Loop will provide an immersive natural experience along the banks of Lake Erie that supports recreational opportunities for birding and hiking, protects critical lakeshore infrastructure, and restores and improves coastal habitat areas through beneficial use of dredge material.

## The Gordon Hills

Situated at the terminus of E. 72nd Street, the Gordon Hills will rise over 40 feet above the existing lakefront, giving visitors stunning views of Lake Erie and the Cleveland skyline.

## The Eastern Fishing Cove

The Eastern Fishing Cove will build upon existing amenities and programming at the E. 55th Marina, creating a node of intergenerational activity where families can spend the day fishing, picnicking, attending events, and enjoying time by the lake.



## 72<sup>nd</sup> Street Gateway

The 72nd Street Gateway will serve as the lakefront's primary entrance or "front porch" – welcoming the community into safe, accessible, and vibrant park spaces.





**Community Greenways**

Community Greenways along E. 55th and E. 72nd streets will welcome communities into the lakefront park spaces with improved pedestrian and bicycle amenities, new planting and street trees, enhanced wayfinding and signage, and opportunities for gateway art.

Key program spaces – Community Greenways, the 72nd Street Gateway, the Gordon Hills, the Launch & the Shore, the Habitat Loop, the Cove, and the Eastern Fishing Cove – will be located on the Lakeshore.





+ HIGHLIGHT

**New York City, NY**

## Brooklyn Bridge Park


*The Pier 4 Beach at Brooklyn Bridge Park includes a natural sandy and rocky shoreline for walking along the water edge and launching non-motorized boats. Sitting on the shoreline, visitors can observe activity in the water and wildlife at the offshore Bird Island – an inaccessible nature preserve. While swimming is not permitted at the beach, it provides residents and visitors with a closer connection to the water and a serene location for taking long walks or heading out for an afternoon of paddling.*

*(right: Brooklyn Bridge Park)*








 The Shore and the Launch will give nearby residents access to a protected cove for wading and watersports. A naturalized sandy shore area will provide a serene spot for viewing the Isle, observing marine life, sunbathing, or playing in the sand.

## **THE COVE**

Nestled between the Isle and the Lakeshore, the Cove will provide a protected inlet for watersports and extensive habitat restoration and expansion.

Newly created land on the Lakeshore and the formation of the Isle will facilitate the creation of a protected cove that provides calm water for water-based recreation as well as habitat restoration. Emphasis on nearshore and in-water habitat restoration provides a better habitat for fish, birds, and other local flora and fauna. The insulated area will offer a space for visitors to interact with and touch the water in a way that has not been available on the east side. Visitors can wade at the Shore, learn to kayak or operate other watercraft in an area insulated from wave energy at the Launch, or walk along elevated boardwalk trails along marsh and wetland habitat that ring the outer edge of the Cove. The Cove will also serve as a new stop along the future Lake Erie Water Trail, a 25-mile paddling route along the shores of Cleveland. These newly created habitat areas will provide space to increase the biodiversity of the lakefront, protect the shoreline and critical infrastructure, and improve water quality and in-water habitat.

## **THE SHORE & LAUNCH**

The protected Cove will facilitate the creation of the Shore and the Launch, which provide opportunities for visitors to touch and engage directly with the water by wading or lounging by the shoreline or spending the day paddling out on a kayak, canoe, or other watercraft.

The construction of the highway and the closure of water-based amenities like the Gordon Park beach and lagoons severed the community's connection to the water, removing the opportunity to experience a respite away from city life. Places to touch and engage with water was one of the most requested programmatic elements throughout

**CHEERS!**

the engagement process. Community members desire to reconnect to the waters of Lake Erie with places to safely engage with the water and opportunities for more equitable access to watersports.

The Shore and Launch will be adjacent program elements located on the banks of the Cove. The Shore will contain a rocky natural shoreline that gently slopes into the water of the lake, providing visitors with an opportunity to safely wade and walk down into the water. The Shore reestablishes the community's connection to the water and harkens back to days spent wading and gathering along the Gordon Park beach. This naturalized shoreline will be encircled by habitat restoration areas with emergent marshes, wetlands, tree groves, and meadows. As visitors approach the Shore from the adjacent parking areas or trailheads, they will walk along boardwalk trails through vegetated areas that open to reveal the expanse of the Cove. These restoration areas with planted dunes will not only provide an immersive natural experience, but they will also protect from shoreline erosion.

Located just to the east of the Shore, the Launch provides a centralized location to rent, launch, and learn how to operate watercraft including kayaks, paddleboards, and canoes in a protected and calm cove before venturing out into the open waters of the Lake. The Launch will include



*The Shore will incorporate natural elements commonly found along Lake Erie beaches. (Ian Adams Photography)*

*The Launch will include an ADA accessible launch area for non-motorized boats and a centralized location for renting and learning how to operate watercraft on Lake Erie. (Brooklyn Bridge Park – Pier 1 Kayak Launch by Elizabeth Felicella)*







an accessible sloped deck and a naturalized shoreline area to launch watercraft providing opportunities for large-group instruction and individual operators.

An adjacent building with a covered pavilion will provide a centralized location for renting equipment, accessing restrooms, and purchasing concessions that serves visitors to the Shore and the Launch. It will also serve as a gateway into the park spaces from the Lakeshore Boulevard (formerly Marginal Road) and the new pedestrian bridge over I-90 that connects the lakefront to the former FirstEnergy site. This gateway welcomes visitors to a series of nature, boardwalk, and multiuse trails, parking areas, and other nodes of activity at the lakefront.



## Chicago, IL

### Northerly Island Park

*Northlly Island Park, a former airstrip, is now a 91-acre public nature preserve peninsula located on Lake Michigan. The decades long planning and design project spearheaded by SmithGroupJJR and Studio Gang envisioned a public park with space for nature and a large amphitheater.*

*Given budget constraints, the first phase of implementation spearheaded by the Park District and Army Corps, included a series of trails, hills, and a lagoon. These improvements provided ample space for habitat and visual interest for visitors. However, the first phases did not include the original offshore reefs and barrier islands designed to protect from Lake Michigan's rising water levels and wave action due to budget constraints. Months after opening in 2015, high lake levels and waves began to erode the Island's pathways leading portions of the walkway to crumble. The Park District closed the pathway and the Army Corps built up portions of the outer edge with armor stone. However, this is a short-term fix. Without the original planned barriers or more natural dissipation, the Island remains at risk to wave action and lake levels providing a key lesson in planning for uncertain environmental futures when investing in public space.*

*(Left: Studio Gang Architects)*

## **THE HABITAT LOOP**


A newly formed Habitat Loop will provide an immersive natural experience along the banks of Lake Erie that supports recreational opportunities for birding and hiking, protects critical lakeshore infrastructure, and restores and improves coastal habitat areas through beneficial use of dredge material.

The Habitat Loop will be located at the current pinch-point where I-90 curves so near to the lake that the highway has been forced to shut down after large storm events due to hazardous roadway conditions. Dredge material will be used to expand the narrow area between the park and the highway and fill in two inlets and a cooling basin associated with the former FirstEnergy power plant, creating a new immersive natural experience. The Habitat Loop will also allow the closure of two decked or bridged portions of the highway, reducing overall maintenance costs for the Ohio Department of Transportation and improving the safety of motorists.

The Habitat Loop will provide a new immersive natural recreation experience that is welcoming and inclusive. A space that invites the local community to explore birding, take a hike, or just enjoy the natural beauty of the lake. It will provide a new opportunity for youth to learn about natural systems and help inspire a new generation of natural stewards. The nature-inspired area within the Habitat Loop will be characterized by a freshwater marsh typical to a natural lake shoreline ecosystem. This type of undeveloped and uncultivated landscape was historically found along Lake Erie's shoreline, but has since started to disappear, being disturbed through habitat fragmentation by previous land use practices, diminishing the services these ecosystems provide. The Habitat Loop will exemplify how these natural systems function and their importance to our livelihood. It also serves as an example of how human-made ecological systems can be designed in a way to emulate natural processes to be more successful, sustainable, valuable, and harmonious to our living spaces as much as other landscapes found in our communities.

The Habitat Loop will consist of an expansive area of emergent marsh. This habitat will be adapted to the



 *The Habitat Loop will buffer infrastructure, provide nearshore and aquatic habitat, and create a new natural space that welcomes the surrounding community in to embrace nature first-hand with inclusive opportunities for birding, kayaking, and exploring.*





**Toledo, Ohio**

## Howard Marsh

*A partnership between Metroparks Toledo, Ohio Division of Wildlife, and Ducks Unlimited has transformed a 987-acre agricultural property into a vibrant nature preserve. Howard Marsh includes over miles of walking and boardwalk trails that meander through the marsh areas providing access for hikers and birders. Kayak launches and water trails give the community another way to experience the marsh. The marsh also captures and filters stormwater runoff from surrounding areas, improving water quality before it reaches the lake. The project was funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative with funding from NOAA and the project partners. (left: Toledo Metroparks)*



## **CHEERS!**

dynamic environmental conditions found within Lake Erie and support an abundance of birds, amphibians, reptiles, fish, and macro-invertebrates. The hydric soils and emergent vegetation typically found in freshwater marshes contain high nutrient levels which contribute to an overall high rate of primary production providing an abundance of ecological services and functions that benefit the animal and human communities found in and around these areas. The design of the marsh will be modeled on biological processes found in nature to emulate a self-sustaining marsh system alongside the more programmed areas of the proposed lakefront plan. The marsh will be designed with a softened natural shoreline with a semi-hardened edge in key locations to protect the marsh while allowing freshwater from Lake Erie to flow through the vegetation and in consideration of seasonal water-level fluctuations that support successional vegetation to flourish and thrive.

The Habitat Loop will include an ADA accessible boardwalk trail that encircles the wetland and marsh habitats. The boardwalk will provide an elevated perspective for visitors to see the main ecological components of a wetland system and how they work together to strengthen the overall ecological function of the area. The elevated boardwalk will also maintain the ecological and hydrological connection between The Habitat Loop and Lake Erie. The boardwalk will contain a series of educational and interpretive signs highlighting important aspects of a freshwater marsh that will guide visitors along the walkway through an immersive natural experience. Certain stops along the trail will allow for viewing platforms and observation opportunities to investigate certain locations within the marsh that support interesting native plant species and wildlife habitat found in freshwater systems. The habitat loop trail also contains unpaved trails that meander through the interior of the marsh, allowing different user groups to get a closer look into the inner workings of key habitat zones within the freshwater marsh and providing access at select locations for wading, paddling, and fishing. An important aspect of the freshwater wetland is its ability to support passive recreational activities and other forms of enjoying the water's edge, while providing an opportunity to teach users about the importance of respecting the space and needs of important marsh wildlife. The interior of the marsh will be designed to allow access for small non-motorized watercrafts such as kayaks and paddleboards. The habitat loop trail will provide birders, hikers, watercraft users, and nature lovers alike with the opportunity to enjoy and learn more about this natural amenity.

## **Where it's been done**

# Beneficial Use of Dredge Material

*Dredged sediment from the Cuyahoga River and other navigation channels was traditionally treated as waste and disposed of in lakefront landfills. However, new efforts by the EPA, the Port of Cleveland, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been exploring ways to beneficially use dredge material. Beneficial uses may include creating habitat, nourishing beaches, creating new park spaces, shore protection, and supporting industrial and commercial uses. Reusing dredge material is a great example of the "circular economy" in action where materials are recycled providing economic impact and community and environmental benefits.*

*The Port of Cleveland is one of the largest ports on the Great Lakes. Over 20,000 jobs and \$3.5 billion in annual economic activity are tied to the roughly 13 million tons of cargo that move through Cleveland Harbor each year. The Port of Cleveland is the only local government agency whose sole mission is to spur job creation and economic vitality in Cuyahoga County. The Port is an economic engine for our community, a key to Northeast Ohio's global competitiveness, and a crucial partner in building Cuyahoga County's future.*

*The Port has been leading the way in creating new ways to sustainably use dredge material. In collaboration with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), they researched the environmental impact of dredged material. These studies confirmed that sediment is suitable for unrestricted upland use and causes minimal, if any environmental impact. Since 2021, the Port has harvested 8,000 tons of dredge material that has been used for beneficial purposes.*

*Dredge material has been used and is currently being used to create habitat or protect shorelines in other Great Lakes cities. Pointe Mouillee and Windmill Island (Michigan) are examples of past successful beneficial use of dredge for stabilization and habitat creation. While Sandusky and Astabula (Ohio) have ongoing wetland restoration initiatives using dredge material.*

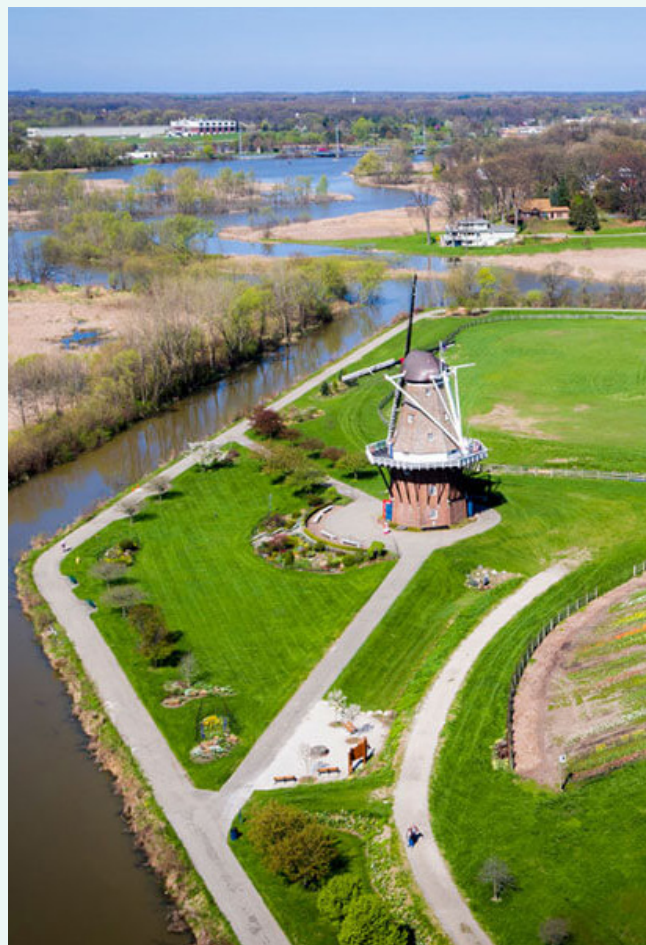


◀ *Pointe Mouillee (South Rockwood, MI) is a major habitat restoration project that was constructed by the USACE in the 1970s. The 900-acre CDF (confined disposal facility) was designed to protect the existing area, hold dredge material, and provide space for wetland habitat and nature-based recreation. It is now a waterfowl, birding, fishing, and nature destination. (Michigan Department of Natural Resources)*



◀ *Material dredged from the Pensaukee Harbor were used to create a 4.6 acre island. Wave action has altered the original configuration into a fish-hook shape, providing habitat for birds and state-listed endangered species. It also protects from erosion by shielding an extensive wetland in the Pensaukee State Wildlife Area. (USACE)*

▶ *Windmill Island is part of a 33-acre park in Holland Michigan. It was partially created with dredged material. Today, the island boasts acres of tulip beds and a working windmill transplanted from the Netherlands. (Waterfront Holland)*





**CHEERS!**



**+ HIGHLIGHT**

**Calgary, Alberta**

## St. Patrick's Island Park

*31-acre public park on an island at the confluence of two rivers just east of downtown Calgary. It has served as a public open space since the late 1800s. In 2010 the city worked with residents and stakeholders to create a vision for the park that emphasized the bond between people and nature. The renovated park includes multiple view and observation points that provide stunning views of the water and city skyline and a seasonal breach where visitors can wade into the water. A grassy hill provides a setting for events, picnics, and hikes with views of the city beyond.*

*(right: Calgary Municipal Land Corporation)*








## **THE GORDON HILLS**

Situated at the terminus of E. 72nd Street, the Gordon Hills will rise over 40 feet above the existing lakefront giving visitors stunning views of Lake Erie and the Cleveland skyline.

Community members love taking in the natural beauty and expansive views available along the lakefront and desire more opportunities and spaces to take in those vistas. Rising over 40 feet above the current elevation of the lakefront parks, the Gordon Hills will create a new vantage point to appreciate the natural beauty and wonder of the lake. Atop the hills, above the treetops, visitors will experience panoramic views of the Isle, the Cove, Lake Erie, and the Cleveland skyline.

Accessible natural surface trails connected to the lakefront's larger network of trails will lead visitors on a climb to the top of the hill providing moments to pause and reflect on the tranquility of the lake. The Gordon Hills will become a year-round node of activity, changing with each season. In the summer, visitors will trek up to the top of the hills to view fireworks or watch the Cleveland National Air Show and relax as refreshing breezes roll off the water. As the air cools and the leaves begin to change color, visitors will enjoy hiking up the hills to take in the vibrant colors and natural splendor of autumn. During the winter months, as portions of the lake freeze over, the hills will become a prime destination for sledding and frolicking in the snow, viewing wave-created ice sculptures along the lake, and appreciating the stillness of nature. Then as the snow melts and the ice begins to thaw, spring visitors will be greeted by a meadow of wildflowers and native grasses that drape the hills attracting pollinators and birds.

 *The Gordon Hills will provide visual interest and activities for families year-round. Winter activities include sledding, snow tubing, and snowball fights.*



## **THE EASTERN FISHING COVE**


The Eastern Fishing Cove will build upon existing amenities and programming at the E. 55th Marina, creating a node of intergenerational activity where families can spend the day fishing, picnicking, attending events, and enjoying time by the lake.

Fishing and picnicking are popular activities along the lakefront, especially adjacent to the E. 55th Marina. Community members expressed a desire for more places to fish, more interaction and engagement with the water, and more viewing and observation areas to take in the picturesque views. The Eastern Fishing Cove will expand current fishing areas by the E. 55th Marina and incorporate new fishing amenities. The outer perimeter of the area will provide almost 2,000 linear feet of shoreline for fishing, which includes platforms that hover over the stone edge, a naturalized shore for fishing, and a pier that extends out into the Cove. Enhanced fishing amenities will include cleaning stations, restrooms, and improved walkways.

“The east side is growing and wants a family friendly waterfront park!”

– **Community Member**



 The Eastern Fishing Cove will build upon the existing node of fishing activity at E. 55th, creating welcoming spaces for the current community of anglers and fun for kids and adults of all ages with open lawn space and picnic areas.





## Erie, Pennsylvania

# Presque Isle Bay Fish Structures

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission placed 126 vertical "fish crib" structures in Presque Isle Bay in 2016 to stimulate fish hot spots in popular fishing locations. Artificial fish structures, created using natural materials, can help attract fish and create spaces for spawning to support local anglers.

(left: Fishing)




**CHEERS!**

Nature and boardwalk trails meander along and loop through the submerged aquatic vegetation and emergent wetland areas providing space for nature lovers, anglers, birders, and walkers. In-water habitat enhancements with the addition of underwater mounds, berms, and fish habitat structures will improve fish habitat and support recreation and community fishing. Target species include black bass, sunfish species, yellow perch, and walleye. Adjacent marshes provide important breeding areas for Walleye fish, supporting the region’s role as the Walleye Capital of the World.

The interior of the Eastern Fishing Cove will contain an open lawn space for passive and active recreation, a picnic pavilion, and a flexible event space. The lawn will serve as an open space for community members to use in a variety of ways – from picnicking to frisbee games. Its location near parking lots and the flexible event space provides an opportunity to host events of various sizes throughout the year. Designed with grass “pavers” and a covered pavilion, the flexible event space will supply a multi-functional lawn space that can be adapted to accommodate larger events, festivals, vendors, or even parking for larger events. Visitors will be able to move seamlessly between these spaces via a series of nature, boardwalk, and multi-use trails that connect to adjacent parking and other nodes of activity along the lakefront.



 *A covered pavilion provides space for picnics and larger events adjacent to the flexible lawn area.*  
*(St. Patrick’s Island – Guy Nordenson and Associates)*

**+ HIGHLIGHT**

**Chicago, IL**

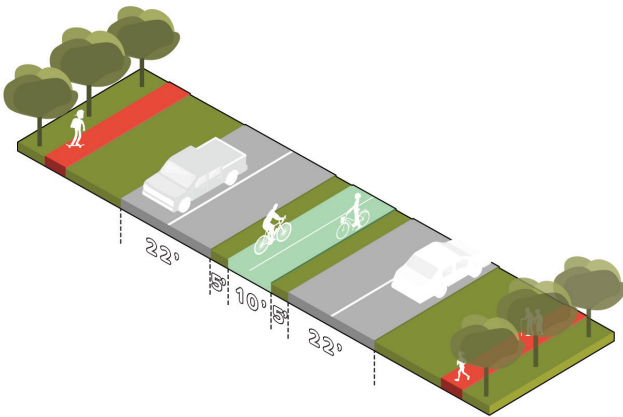
## Chicago Riverwalk


*The Chicago Riverwalk is a dynamic urban waterfront offering a variety of activities and points of interest. From marinas, fishing piers, and kayak launches to tree-shaded parks, floating wetlands, and boardwalks there are seemingly endless opportunities to explore. The Jetty “cove” includes floating wetland gardens, interpretive signage about the river’s ecology and history, and areas to fish and bird watch. Efforts to improve water quality and fish habitat in the river have been effective over the past forty years. When the Friends of the Chicago River formed in the late 1970s, there were fewer than 10 species of fish, but today anglers can find over 70 different species including smallmouth bass, carp, perch, crappie, bluegill, and catfish.*

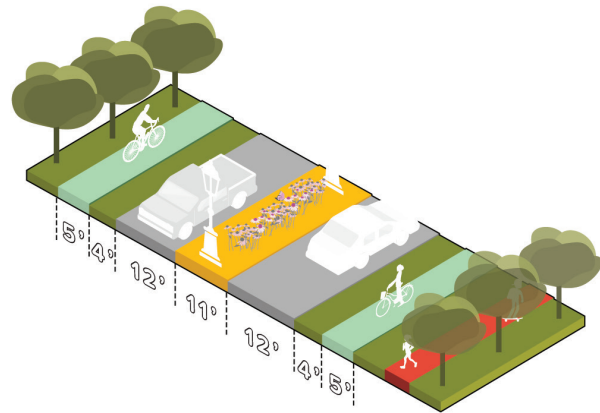
*(right: Sasaki)*








-  *E. 55th Street Greenway proposes the implementation of the City's Midway Protected Cycle Track plan with the addition of a multiuse path for pedestrians.*



-  *E. 72nd Street Greenway proposes protected bike lanes and a multiuse path for pedestrians that connects to the E. 72nd Gateway.*

## **COMMUNITY GREENWAYS –** **E. 55<sup>TH</sup> & E. 72<sup>ND</sup> STREET**

Community Greenways along E. 55th and E. 72nd streets will welcome communities into the lakefront park spaces with improved pedestrian and bicycle amenities, new planting and street trees, enhanced wayfinding and signage, and opportunities for gateway art.

Improving access to the lakefront from adjacent communities is one of the primary objectives of the CHEERS study. Community members consistently cited issues with getting to the lakefront. Half of the survey respondents said that their top concern with the lakefront was getting to park areas from neighborhoods given the limited crossings at the railroad and I-90. Additional concerns included the safety of existing bicycle and pedestrian crossings and routes which is why almost 80% of surveyed users drive to the parks instead of biking, walking, or taking other modes of transit. However, during the planning process the team also worked to understand the psychological barriers to accessing the park, which include a lack of gateways and clear approach to the park spaces that welcome in neighbors from across the city.

CHEERS envisions a series of green neighborhood connections that will extend park spaces from the lakefront back into the adjacent neighborhoods. These greenways or “green fingers” include necessary safety improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists, new planting and street trees, as well as wayfinding and opportunities for art. Smaller vacant lots located along these streets create a potential for a string of pocket parks that could be established along the greenways to further strengthen the connection. The alignment of E. 55th and E. 72nd streets respond to the specific space and right-of-way constraints. Additional study of these neighborhood linkages will continue through complimentary efforts by the City as well as the current Safe Routes to Parks Initiative. The Safe Routes to Parks initiative, a partnership between Bike Cleveland, the SCSDC, Cleveland Metroparks, and the Kent State Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative, will continue exploring these connections to the lakefront with additional community engagement and visioning studies.


The E. 55th Street greenway will include the implementation of the city’s proposed E. 55th Midway Protected Bike Boulevard segment that connects south to Broadway Avenue. The Midway Protected Bike Boulevards are part of the city’s larger proposed network of midway





cycle tracks that include center-aligned, protected bike lanes and other street safety improvements. In addition to the cycle track, the CHEERS plan includes an extension of a multiuse trail that connects to the lakefront multiuse trail. This improvement along with simplified intersections at the newly created Lakeshore Boulevard (formerly Marginal Drive), will improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists accessing park spaces from adjacent neighborhoods.

The E. 72nd greenway will include protected and buffered bicycle lanes, a new multiuse trail link, and a revised median with opportunities for signage and public art that welcome community members to the lakefront. Simplified on- and off-ramps north of I-90 will improve vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian safety by reducing the number of lanes and intersections. A new multiuse trail link provides clear and safe access to the lakefront parks, the E. 72nd Street Gateway, and South Gordon Park.

 *Cleveland's proposed Midway Protected Bike Boulevard network will consist of 60 miles of buffered, two-directional centered bike lanes, which will connect Cleveland neighborhoods to assets like the eastern lakefront. (Bialosky + Partners Architects & OI studio)*

“The lake is a public amenity. It should always be accessible to everyone in an equitable capacity.

– **Community Member**



## **72<sup>ND</sup> STREET GATEWAY**

The 72nd Street Gateway will serve as the lakefront’s primary entrance or “front porch” – welcoming the community into safe, accessible, and vibrant park spaces.

Many community members feel that the collection of parks along the lakefront lacks a clear and cohesive identity. The lack of welcoming wayfinding and signage and clear entry points that connect to adjacent neighborhoods leave many with the impression that the spaces are not for community use.

CHEERS envisions a series of gateways along the lakefront that will invite community members into the park spaces. The 72nd Street Gateway will serve as the lakefront’s primary entrance or “front porch” – welcoming the community into safe, accessible, and vibrant park spaces. This new space will be a physical manifestation of inviting adjacent communities to embrace the lakefront as their own. Walking into the gateway from the E 72nd Street

greenway visitors will be drawn in by lush gardens and tree groves, the rise of the Gordon Hills, and a glimpse of Lake Erie in the distance. A hardscaped entry plaza will provide a landing pad with visitor amenities like benches and restrooms where visitors can take a moment to relax as they explore the options along the lakefront. New signage, wayfinding, and visitor information kiosks will help orient visitors and provide clear directions to different program elements along the lakefront. The gateway will also serve as a key trailhead, providing linkages to the lakefront multiuse trail, natural surface trails, boardwalk trails, and other local and regional trail systems like the Harrison Dillard Bikeway and the Cleveland Lakefront Bikeway.



### **New York City, NY**

## **Domino Park Wayfinding**

*Domino Park, named after site’s history as a sugar refinery, was transformed into a waterfront park that includes a variety of recreational amenities. Noë & Associates worked with stakeholders to create place-based branding and a complementary wayfinding system that played on the site’s heritage and legacy using a dot grid often seen in domino tiles for graphic marks and a stencil typographic motif that celebrates the areas industrial heritage. The system is seamlessly incorporated into the park spaces, welcoming community members in through park entrances and gateways and providing key information and orientation throughout. The dynamic graphic motif not only helps the community navigate the space, but also helps honor and recognize the past while embracing the future.*

*(left: Noë & Associates)*